

Oakley Valley C&H Annual Operating Instructions
Sawtooth National Forest
Minidoka Ranger District
Grazing Year 2013

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Failure to follow the instructions in the AOI is a violation of your grazing permit. The contents of this years plan reflect the management we jointly agreed to at your annual meeting. As a reminder, grazing fees will be \$1.35 per head month this year and must be received prior to your on date of May 26 to validate your grazing permit. Upon validation, you will be authorized to graze the following numbers on the Oakley Valley Allotment from May 26th through October 20:

Mathews - 308 c/c pair Whiteley – 461 c/c pair

This is the first year of this rotation and will reverse in 2015.

Unit	No. of Livestock	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Four Mile	769	5/26	7/4
Enter this Unit first with 769 numbers for approximately 40 days. When allowable use is reached or by (7/4) distribute all cattle into the North Water unit.			
North Water	769	7/5	8/14
Enter this unit with 769 numbers on (7/5) and remain here for approximately 42 days. When allowable use is reached or 8/14 move and distribute all cattle on to the Bostetter Unit.			
Bostetter Units & Common Use Area	769	8/15	9/19
Livestock will enter this Unit (Upper, Lower & Common Use Area) on 8/15 with 769 numbers and remain here for approximately 36 days. If allowable use is reached before 9/19 move cattle into the Buck Corral and Rodeo Creek Unit. When in this unit, please check periodically for livestock in the Bostetter campgrounds and remove if any are found.			
Buck Corral	335	9/20	10/7
Enter this unit with the 335 numbers and remain here through 10/5. If allowable use is reached before the 18 days move cattle on to the next unit.			
Rodeo Creek	334	9/20	10/7
All cattle will enter this unit and remain here for approximately 18 days or removed earlier if allowable use is met.			
Trapper Creek	769	10/8	10/20
Enter this unit with all cattle and remain here through the off date of 10/20 or earlier if allowable use is met.			

1: Rotation dates are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, the cattle will be removed from that unit and placed in the next unit, or removed from the allotment if in the last unit. The pasture rotation schedule listed above is tentative as to days and dates and is our best estimate of equalizing the grazing on the unit. If we have water shortage problems on the allotment we may have to modify these instructions. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, ability to use suitable range, riding and other permittee practices.

It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date. You are encouraged to have the livestock moved from one unit to the next within 3 days at the end of any rotation time frame.

2: All bulls or livestock over six months of age will be considered as a permitted animal. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment only for the season, numbers, and allotment shown on the Bill for Collection and after payment has been received.

3: It is recognized that there is not a drift fence between the Trapper Unit, Rodeo Creek Unit and the Bostetter Unit and that some drift may occur. When this happens please gather and remove the cattle from the other units within three days of becoming aware of the situation. Please check periodically and remove any livestock found within the Watershed Study Area or Trapper Creek Riparian enclosures. Salt is not to be placed within 1/4 mile of water or within 100 feet of roads and trails.

4: Based on our post fire meeting last fall it was decided that since such a small number of low intensity burned acres (10%) were affected on the Oakley Valley C&H that no rest would be needed during 2013. We do ask that no salting be done in or near those affected acres when in the North Water Unit.

Monitoring - utilization will be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring of key areas will be used to determine the maximum allowable livestock use on the Oakley Valley C&H Allotment. Key areas are defined as relatively small areas that serve as monitoring and evaluation sites. These areas guide the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range. Please be aware that when the key areas have been used to the allowable intensity level, or if high impact/concentration areas exceed an acceptable size, you will need to move the cattle to the next unit or off the allotment. It will be your responsibility to monitor livestock use and move cattle when the following standards are achieved.

Allowable Use - The permittee is responsible to manage his/her livestock not to exceed the allowable use levels. Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated below is the maximum utilization allowed on desirable grass and sedges for the planned season of use. These use levels are the same ones contained in part three of the Term Grazing Permit associated with this AOI.

Sawtooth National Forest Utilization Standards

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

A) Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures -- 40% Use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures -- 50% use.

B) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4 -inch stubble height of hydric (water-loving) greenline species, whichever occurs first. If allowable use is achieved in all areas prior to the end of the grazing season, notify the Minidoka office before removing the livestock.

Structural Improvements- All improvements will be inspected and maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the allotment. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance is not completed. Allotment management fences and water developments must be maintained prior to your livestock entering the grazing unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance. When you maintain your water developments make sure the wildlife escape ramps are functioning.

Beginning in the 2008 grazing season, grazing permittees will be responsible for maintaining exclosures across their allotments in addition to their regular scheduled maintenance. The initial maintenance will be performed by the Forest Service to bring the exclosure to standard and will then be maintained by the permittee for the remainder of the grazing season. It will be your responsibility to keep livestock out of the exclosures and maintain the fences in good condition until the end of your season. The exclosures are as follows:

Cottonwood Grazing Exclosure - 500 road
Trapper Creek Demo Area
Trapper Creek Admin Site
Trapper Creek Riparian Exclosure

SEE ATTACHED ALLOTMENT MAP FOR REFERENCE

The permittees will determine who has the maintenance on these fences during the grazing season and will inform the Forest Service prior to livestock turnout.

Additional Annual Management Concerns- Stock outside the permitted season or permitted area is considered excess use livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken. Dead livestock on National Forest Lands within 300 feet of a live spring, stream, recreation trail or roadway will be promptly disposed of.

Livestock Distribution - It is agreed that proper salting techniques be used such as placing salt in areas of low natural concentration by the livestock, at least ¼ mile away from water, and on ridges accessible to livestock. Salt must not be placed in shaded areas, in meadows or in areas of heavy utilization. Riding will be done to scatter cattle to avoid livestock concentration.

Records and Reports- The permittee is required to keep accurate records concerning movement of livestock to the Forest Service. Actual use reports and Improvement Maintenance forms and any death loss records should be supplied to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season. Death loss records assist in identifying areas where control may be helpful.

These records need to include number of animals lost, cause of death (plan poisoning, predators, or other causes). The Permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District at least five (5) days before cattle are turned onto the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide these dates will negate the possibility of any future adjustments in season, any credits or refund as a result of early off dates.

Travel Management Authorization: This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel Management on the Minidoka R.D.:

Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized for any reason. This means livestock may not be gathered and herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. However, cross country travel may be authorized case-by-case on a project specific basis. Only the District Ranger can authorize these activities. Authorization must be obtained in writing in advance of the specific project activity. Motorized access behind seasonally locked gates is not authorized; permission to access these areas needs to be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. that restrict motor vehicle use are not authorized for your use. In the limited instances where there may be structural improvements on these roads you will need to obtain permission from the District ranger to access your improvements.

As discussed in the 2013 AOI mtg. I am granting permission to smooth out the following routes which were inadvertently ripped up following the 2012 fire: Worm Corral, Squaw Creek, Head Box to middle Cottonwood Roads as well as the old north road off Hudson Ridge Road.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on roads and trails signed closed to the public only for purposes of improvements maintenance. All activities need to be planned in advance during high use periods, such as hunting seasons, to reduce the exposure of these permitted actions to the general public.

Noxious Weed Management- Only hay and straw that has been certified as Noxious Weed Free will be allowed on National Forest System Lands in Idaho. If you find any plants, you suspect of being on the Idaho List please the District Office. Contact your County Weed Supervisor at 208-878-4043 for a list of sources if you need to acquire certified forage.

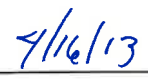
Ownership - Cattle grazed under term permit must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

Additional Comments - Observance, documentation, and reporting of additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall allotment management. These uses could include unauthorized livestock use, excess use by other permittee's, wild horses, wildlife, mining related activities, recreation, etc.

Notification: The permittee will provide the Minidoka District Ranger with written notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Minidoka District Ranger or his staff will verify the response in writing to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact us. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sid J. Lopez at (208) 737-3273 or stop by the District Office at 2306 Hiland Ave. in Burley.


District Ranger


Date

